

FAJHION INTERNATIONAL

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

APRIL/MAY 1991

THE NEXT GENERATION

ast November, Manhattan's Martha International, a show-case for new and innovative young designers, hosted a party celebrating the formation of a new group called "The Next Generation." Comprising 28 relative newcomers, the group includes designers of sportswear, dresses, cocktail/evening, knitwear, and accessories. Jamie Herzlinger, chairman and originator of the group, describes the objective as bringing emerging U.S. design talent to the attention of retailers, editors, and consumers. This they

hope to achieve by pooling their knowledge, resources, and expertise in mutually supportive efforts, such as their own trade show and group trunk shows. Aggressive and innovative, this group seems to be the vehicle that many new and talented designers need. However, not all qualify. A requisite for membership is to have been in business for not less than one year (shipped two seasons), and not more than five. Price points should fall into the Bridge or Designer category, making it easier to target an individual store

as a group. If this basic criteria is met, each new applicant is reviewed by the steering committee whose members, along with Jamie Herzlinger, include Jennifer Bawden, Vincent Cipollino of Stephen Cole, Jimmy Gamba, and Gerald Yosca. The final decision, states Ms. Herzlinger, "is made on merit." Herzlinger firmly believes that this group strategy, with its strong and direct approach, will meet the retailers needs:

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ANYTHING GOES

espite the recession, designers are determined not to play it safe for Fall, and this optimistic stance is reflected in the upbeat clothes being shown. Relying heavily on the '60s decade for inspiration, from the early formality of the Kennedy years, to the waning days of the flower children and hippie era (this last period translates best in the contemporary market), the overall attitude combines the spirit of the past, with the sophistication and technology of the '90s. Fashion dictates are out, all the old rules fall by the wayside. This time around anything goes, from untraditional fabric and color mixes, to the question of hemlines.

These are some of the recurrent themes: pattern plays—designers are

mad for plaid! They're cropping up in everything from dresses to outerwear. JULIE LAURIE's slant on the car coat (remember them) and walk shorts is strictly of the'90s, in "traditional" or "pop" plaid worsted wool flannel. SUE WONG takes classic red tartans in varying sizes and produces a patchwork effect 2button curvy jacket in sponge crepe, borders it in paisley around the shawl collar, then pairs it with a short and swingy pleated plaid skirt. At KEESHUN, a long fitted "jester" jacket with angled slash pockets in earth toned wool plaid slides over matching trousers. While ECOTE's muted shadow plaid smock and flared flounce dresses are strictly for the young, designer JAMES PURCELL takes plaid to sophisticated heights after dark with a silk

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"I put together The Next Generation basically because there was a lack of camaraderie among young designers in our industry. I also noticed that having traveled around the country doing trunk shows for 4-5 months of the year, there is less diversification of stock...because of economic conditions. But, in my opinion, this is the time to try new people to entice the customer into the store. My idea. by putting us all together, was really to make this next tier of designers... the newcomers...more prolific, thereby giving the stores the opportunity to be able to try several of these designers. My feeling is the more you have, the more you can offer...We hope the boutique philosophy is coming back into the fold. Customers are coming into these stores and asking 'what do you have that's really special?' That's really what specialty stores were always known for-not what you have now-the same as every other department store."

Jennifer Bawden, one of the members of the steering committee agrees. "If they (the Stores) know that there's a group, and that they can come look at all these people's products at once, they can easily see that here's something new and exciting..... Also, our prices fall below a lot of the established designer prices. It's a difficult economy, people want something fresh, new and exciting."

Putting their theory into practice, on February 25th, they premiered as a group with their first trade show (held at the Limelight in New York). During the Fall market, they are planning to do another trade show at the Dallas Apparel Center, to be billed as "The Next Generation Comes to Dallas." Currently they are holding their first trunk show at Rich's in Atlanta, Georgia. This will be the first of its kind. The store, which has selected Herzlinger and Bawden, along with nine others from the group, is showcasing their Spring Collections. Sheila Kaminsky, Rich's fashion director, in a WWD interview reflected on the group's "real mix of talent" in RTW as well as accessories, and the belief that this

trunk show would be a test program for both Rich's and The Next Generation. This innovative event, spanning two days, is being reinforced by a comprehensive marketing campaign, including newspaper ads and direct mail. "They've also got local television covering us," comments Herzlinger. "It's a wonderful opportunity for the store not to go

out and buy eleven new resources...they get to try them out. And if the shoe fits - wear it." Adds Jennifer Bawden, "...it really helps to have those few stores that support young designers...if the fashion world is going to continue, that's what's got to happen. The "Old Guard" has got to make way for some new players!"

THE NEXT GENERATION

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"SUITABLE" JACKETS

he jacket is the key to Fall suits and can make or break the look! With the short slim skirt a given, designers are focusing their energies on carefully constructed jackets, with the long body hugging silhouette still the number one shape. The zip-front scuba jacket with its sleek yet sexy tailoring worn over a sliver of skirt, is a perfect example. The SBS COLLECTION's zip-front jewel toned suit in rayon gabardine, and their wing collared black/white harlequin check, pack a

lot of punch. For a new twist, BAGATELLE's scuba jacket in a red and black tartan plaid adds matching stirrup pants. At ROYAL ALPACA, the longer jacket appears in designer Beatriz Canedo-Patino's impeccably tailored single-breasted suit with rounded notched collar and angled besom pockets, in unusual shades of brick, melon, or teal.

The looser silhouettes with the long over short proportion makes an appearance. JONES NY takes a youthful approach in a French schoolgirl inspired coral wool crepe suit with a platter collar, a row of five covered buttons, and stitched down pleated skirt; while YEOHLEE dresses the executive in a vicuna wool gabardine intricately cut suit with jewel neckline, rounded dolman sleeves, and double layered jacket.

For the career woman, Fall offers lots of options. The basics are banished and in their stead, a livelier, more personalized way of dressing is presented. As in seasons past, there's an emphasis on day-into-evening versatility. Novelty checks (especially black/white) and plaids, plus fabric mixes, texture, and unexpected colors

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Anything Goes continued

taffeta smoking ensemble, consisting of a shawl collared, full skirted coat, over a short slim point d'esprit and taffeta skirt, with satin bow tied at the waist.

Designers are banking on a variety of checks to lift fall out of the fashion doldrums. Windowpane, harlequin, buffalo or houndstooth checkthey're all hot! RANDY KEMPER recolors a nubby houndstooth wool gabardine jacket in pink and black. adds a black shawl collar, cuffs, and flap pockets, and anchors the whole with black stirrup pants. Buffalo checks get the French touch in DIAPOSITIVE's tunnel belted wool jacket and shorts in icy pastel shades of rose quartz, orange sherbet, or teal. A LINE ANNE KLEIN pulls together a variety of checks in one ensemble and manages to carry it off. A red wool buffalo check hooded topper is shown over a black/ivory check cardigan, fuchsia/ black flannel windowpane check shirt, black turtleneck, and red buffalo check skirt. This is casual sportswear at its best.

Color blocking is very much in evidence, from high voltage combos, to luscious pastels, and stark black and white. At BARRY BRICKEN, an enveloping shawl collared and cuffed, drop shoulder ¾ jacket comes in either orange crush/spearmint, or mink/powder pink double faced wool. For a fresh look at an old favorite, check out NEW MAN's

hooded duffle, recolored in raspberry/peach/brown/pale blue wool melton...delicious. Color blocking in the form of appliques turns up in the collections of PATTI CAPPALLI and ARABELLA POLLEN. The former shows a striking ginger wool velour jacket, appliqued with jade/mauve squares on the bodice; while the latter features a flared black wool jacket punctuated with a chrome yellow cir-

DIAPOSITIVE

cle on one side, two red zippered pockets and closure. This is worn over a red turtleneck and black leggings for a look that's sharp.

As for prints, the '60s influence continues to be strong...and yes, there is life after Pucci. In the talented hands of jewelry turned fashion designer MARIA SNYDER, vibrant abstract printed silk charmeuse and chiffon separates become wearable art. Art of a different sort surfaces in GEORGE GATI's ultra sophisticated fly front shirt jacket in a jewel toned Matisse floral on silk hopsacking. For pure '60s kitsch, nothing beats DRIP DRY BY URBAN OUTFIT-TERS' clear plastic snap front shower curtain (really) coats, printed all over in a flower or linoleum design.

Knits reflect a rustic yet refined lifestyle. Soft neutrals and earth tones echo the hues of nature in tunics, and cropped and oversized sweaters. Outstanding examples include, RENSO FABIANI's leaf embroidered cotton cropped sweater with bobble trim; ALLY CAPELLINO's crunchy hand knitted oversize cable sweater in buff or dark green; the LINEA S' old rose wool/angora cardigan with attached scarf, over matching cable turtleneck; KIELO AMERICA's salt'n'pepper cotton placket front crewneck, piped in bright red or yellow; TRICOT ST. RAPHAEL's muted green tapestry leaf patterned vest and jacket, over solid ribbed turtleneck and stirrup pant (all in

worsted merino wool knit); and ASSET's spice toned leaf intarsia patterned roll collar cotton cardigan.

Knits aren't the only apparel category to offer texture and surface interest. Designers are exploring new and inventive fabrics in all areas of RTW. ANNA SUI's youthful yellow patent pea coat and black patent jumper over white georgette poet's shirt, recalls the heyday of Carnaby Street. BEN de LISI's spaghetti strapped dance dress highlights the new empire shape. The low cut bodice is allover beaded in bronze. and layers of green and wine silk chiffon billow out from there. Perhaps the ultimate in casual chic is represented by GIUSI SLAVIERO's simple black tee shirt, scattered at random with teardrops, over black satin striped shorts...perfection.



"Suitable" Jackets continued

predominate. VALENTINO has a ladylike way with checks. Two of the best from MISS V—the cropped jacket and double front panel skirt in pale green, and the natural/beige/ brown soft shouldered wool with beige fitted sweater beneath. TOM SMITH (at Alby) pairs a black/white wool crepe houndstooth jacket (buttoned in coral), over a slim black skirt and adds a matching check beret. At XZEK, the 3-button officer's jacket in a chocolate/tan check looks sharp over matching slim skirt or trousers. HARVE BENARD and GEORGE SIMONTON use color blocking to spice up Fall. The former shows a jewel neck, fly front wool gabardine rounded shoulder jacket in black/marsh green, over slim green skirt; while the latter shows a beautiful tri-tone wool crepe, with a row of enameled buttons on the hip length cutaway jacket. At LE SUIT, a pink/grey single-breasted houndstooth fitted jacket is placed over a slim charcoal skirt. BAGATELLE's adds a black velvet Peter Pan collar to a jewel buttoned boucle jacket, in a black/magenta/ gold richly textured plaid, over velvet skirt.

And, the timeless elegance of vintage Chanel is sparking the creative juices of many designers. NOVIELLO-BLOOM looks to the early '60s for inspiration in a soft shouldered fuchsia boucle suit bound in wide black and white braid down the front, sleeves, pockets, and spread collar. DU MARR's version of this era is strictly of the '90s with a dinner suit in pale pink crepe over short panelled black chiffon skirt. The four pocket jacket is bordered all around in black, and embellished with pearl and gold buttons.

Designers are in a dramatic mood for late day. The fitted jacket, whether long or short, is the accepted shape, while luxurious fabrics in rich jewel tones or stark black entice. VALENTINO's trapunto stitched satin collared and cuffed red wool dinner suit is a stunner! GABRIEL PAOLO (at Belvoir) is inspired by the Russian renaissance in a jewelled one-button short floral tapestry cloque jacket touched with metallic. The black wool crepe lapels echo the skirt. HARIANA elevates the "little black suit" to new heights in sculpted ottoman faille with asymmetric roll collar, jet buttons, and slim skirt. CLAUDE RAP's high spirited way with black gabardine transforms a bellhop jacket and slim trousers, its red lapels and braid along the side of the pant legs plus two jeweled buttons add a jolt of color. PSI offers up late day glamour in a jewel buttoned fuchsia wool crepe dinner suit. The short curvy jacket glides over a sidedraped sarong skirt. GARYK LEE's (at Barnes and Spells) versatile wool gabardine zip-front streamlined body molding suit in black or jewel tones, represents the perfect luncheon-intodinner outfit!

DESIGNER FOCUS. . .

A LINE ANNE KLEIN

A Line Anne Klein, premiering with the Fall collection, offers casual sportswear from the Anne Klein Company. Consisting of several special fabrications developed by Judith Leech and Louis Dell'Olio in conjunction with Gore Tex, Danskin, and Smedley, the collection was also designed to have a full complement of accessories. Licensees for the line include Pennaco (hosiery), Swank (jewelry), Mutterperl (handbags and belts). The Fall collection consists of four groups: "High Tech," featuring performance fabrics (waterproofing, thermal insulation), in graphic mixes of color and pattern; "Weekend City," offering lightweight knits of wool and rayon in tonal ombre effects of soft color: "Weekend Casual." focusing on rugged classics with a new twist that shows the versatility of traditional active sports fabrics; and "A List," offering core items such as white cotton shirt. black stretch pant, and cotton jersey T-shirts (with signature silver foil logo). The colors run the spectrum from sunshine citrus hues, harvest tones of yellow ochre, purple, moss, and chestnut to fuchsia, coral, red, black, heather, navy, and ivory. Metallics are gold and silver. Solids are combined with buffalo checks and stripes. Fabrications include, wool/Lycra, rayon, guilted velour. nylon, Lycra, cotton twill, denim,

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sandwashed silk, microfiber, sequins, and fake fur.

There are several standouts, including a coral waterproof nappa hooded field jacket that teams with an olive stretch cat suit and ombred cotton flannel shirt. Reminiscent of Mrs. Peel, is a danskin black stretch turtleneck leotard and leggings worn under a fuchsia wool, zip-front blazer. From the buffalo check group, in black and white wool, comes an oversized blazer with matching short shorts, and solid black cotton/Lycra sweater. A black nylon Lycra zip-front jacket with its snap off backpack, is a witty tribute to scuba diving, and teams with black stirrup pants in the same fabrication. Graphic black and white striping juxtaposes with color blocking, as biker shorts (one leg striped one white) are topped with an elongated sweater (the body striped the hood and sleeves solid) both in Lycra spandex.

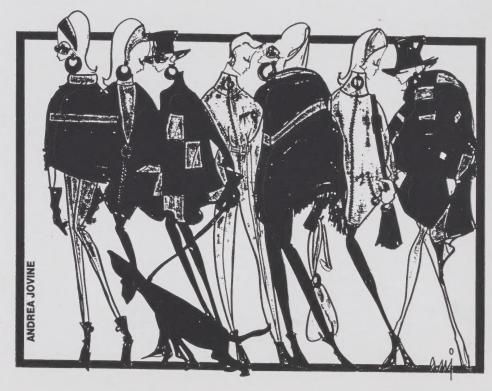
530 Seventh Avenue, 17th fl. New York, N.Y. 10018 (212) 819-0635 Wholesale: \$80-\$90

ANDREA JOVINE

Andrea Jovine, a graduate of FIT, initially designed her own accessory line of handbags and belts before entering the RTW market. Now in her eighth year under her own label, she has developed a reputation for high quality, ultra-wearable clothes that flatter the form, at a price that won't break the bank. "Money is tight in the '90s," Andrea comments. "Clothes are a necessity but they are not necessarily the first priority on your list! Yet, we have grown dramatically over the past two years." Last year the company exceeded their sales projections by 50%, and this year anticipates exceeding their projections by 25%. The designer firmly believes that this is due to their ability to maintain their original standards. "When we started out, our premise was designer clothes at inexpensive prices...they (the stores) didn't know where to put us. We filled a void that is now called Bridge, and although many who started out haven't, we have been able to maintain our price points. We try to give value."

Her collection this Fall is an extensive and comprehensive one, offering more than a dozen groups that span day and eveningwear. The key fabrications are a variety of wools, including stretch and boiled wool. merino, mohair, and gabardine. Also featured is cotton/Lycra and stretch satin. Colorations veer from black, bronze, strawberry, blueberry, magenta, saffron, squash, olive, and copper rose to blush, watermelon, pink, and yellow. Black and white houndstooth is also featured as is color blocking, multi-color stripes, and a paisley print. The details are important and range from paillettes and brass grommets to gold studs, silver braid, and mirror. "My inspiration for Fall is a combination of different things, some '60s inspired, but not taken out of the '60s. I've taken a modern '90s approach. I'm also inspired by the trimmings market...novelty treatments. There are so many ways to dress up an outfit, why not put the accessories straight onto the dress!" Following her creative instincts, brass rings adorn a group of little black dresses with hourglass or A-line silhouettes.

An example of the former is a contour-caressing long sleeved dress with grommets surrounding a high neckline, and cut-outs radiating downward from it. A group of merino wool dresses with a '60s mood, features stripes and boxes in color combinations of blueberry, magenta, saffron, and black. The same colors are used in a wool gabardine trio, comprising svelte jumpsuit, a wedge dress, and coatdress. Also with a '60s influence, is a jersey and double knit group that is color blocked in black, olive, squash, or copper rose. All the pieces are highlighted with gold studs. From a black, watermelon and charcoal group comes an ingenious short wool dress with a blouson front and trapeze back. Evenings get plenty of play with a dress trio in black or burgundy stretch satin. A standout is a long sleeve dress, with wrap top option, which hugs the contours, and controls through the use of a sturdy fabrication which acts like a girdle. Separates offer a myriad of options. These range from a paillette adorned cotton/Lycra tunic, with a "V" neckline repeated in a notch at the hem, over a coordinating solid short skirt or slim pant (black, bronze or strawberry) to a boiled wool cardigan jacket with ottoman wool pockets. The



jacket tops an ottoman wool slim skirt and turtleneck top, both in black. Jumpsuits are a mainstay throughout, as are trapeze tops and stirrup pants. A black and white houndstooth ensemble in wool/Lycra is paired with stirrup pants and topped with a neat tailored jacket. And a swingy tunic in black stretch satin incorporates its own accessories with a "necklace" and cuffs of elaborate silver trim.

1441 Broadway New York, NY 10018 (212) 382-2320 Wholesale: \$25-\$175

EMANUEL BY EMANUEL UNGARO

Debuting in America, and exclusively available in the USA is EMANUEL, a bridge sportswear collection by Emanuel Ungaro. Under the auspices of the Italian company, Gruppo GFT, which will eventually distribute the line internationally, the 250 pieces are designed to bring the spirit of Ungaro's couture house into sportswear dressing. "I am passionately committed to this project because it gives me a unique opportunity to express a more relaxed side that is not possible in couture, and difficult in pret-aporter," says Ungaro. "This collection marks a new direction in my 20 year collaboration with Gruppo GFT." He adds "There is a style to dressing in Paris that combines enormous individuality with a witty elegance, and that is precisely what I've tried to translate for this market with Emanuel." For Fall, there are four groups which include day and eveningwear, as well as weekend sportswear. Silhouettes veer from form-emphasizing (stretch fab-

rications) to easy and capacious. Layering is encouraged, as blouson jackets and swingy toppers contrast with slim pants, short skirts, and fitted knit tops.

Fabrics such as microfibers, stretch velvet, gabardine, and sueded corduroy, are featured along with mohair, plush wool melton, suede, printed velvet, sheer georgette, and flannel. The palette changes according to mood and group. In "Streetcar," black is juxtaposed with green, red, and yellow in solids, plaids, and checks, with details such as studs, zippers, and multiple pockets as accents. The rose, a signature throughout the collection (often carved into buttons and used in prints). is embossed onto a jacquard quilted blouson jacket with notched collar. It tops a high neck rose print sweater, teamed with a short solid knit skirt. In "Gauguin," nature based brights accent chocolate brown, and a variety of textures play off each other...from ribbed knits and stretch corduroy to plush melton and printed velvet. "Mongolian," as its name implies, goes ethnic, with carpet jacquards, embroidery, and detailed trims in silk wool challis, ikat prints, plaids and checks. Using colorations ranging from saddle browns to earthy olives and plums, its separates combine slim knit pants and sidedraped short skirts with airy cocoon jackets. The evening group, "Star," hugs the body sensually with stretch velvet, lace, satin, and metallics. Included are metallic bodysuits, and a svelte velvet jumpsuit ruched at the waist. Here, the menswear plaids are edged with silver and the velvets are highlighted with crystal!

c/o GFT Apparel Corp 650 Fifth Ave New York, NY 10019 (212) 265-2788 Wholesale: \$60-\$350

INTERNATIONAL DATELINE.

BRIDAL MARKET

NEW YORK

APR. 9-11 INTERSTOFF (Fabrics) **FRANKFURT**

APR. 16-18 **NEW YORK FABRIC SHOW**

NEW YORK

APR. 23-25 **INPRINTS** (Fabrics)

NEW YORK

APR. 27-30

NEW YORK NADI (Nat'l Assoc. of Display Industries)

APR. 27-MAY 1 BRIDAL MARKET CHICAGO

MAY 6-10 HOSIERY MARKET

NEW YORK

MAY 8-11 CANADIAN INT'L FUR FAIR

MONTREAL

MAY 9-11 LINEAPPELLE (Leathers) **BOLOGNA**

NEW YORK

MAY 13-15 ACCESSORIE CIRCUIT

NEW YORK

MAY 13-17 ACCESSORY MARKET

MAY 13-17 **NEW YORK** INTIMATE APPAREL MARKET

MAY 13-17 FUR MARKET

NEW YORK

MAY 14-16 **NEW YORK FASHION ACCESSORY EXPO**

MAY 22-23 CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FABRIC SHOW

Cindy Schmid, NY

Lee Slaughter, NY/PARIS

MAY 22-24 MODATEC (Footwear) **ELDA, SPAIN**

MAY 31-JUNE 4

LOS ANGELES

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